

From: R Warfield
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/22/02 6:00pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am writing to express both my disagreement with the judgment against Microsoft in the antitrust suit, and my view that any penalty forced upon Microsoft as a result of this judgment will be unjust and destructive.

Everyday people all over the world have chosen to use Microsoft products, not because Microsoft forced them to use the products, not because there are no competing products, not because everyone loves the Microsoft logo, but because the products are superior to their competitors' products.

As a consumer, and as a computer industry professional, I am outraged that the U.S. Government, specifically the Department of Justice, is attempting to control what products are available to me in my profession, based on their views of fair competition rather than my views, and the views of an overwhelming majority of consumers who choose Microsoft products rather than inferior products of their competitors.

This case was not brought about by consumers. This case was brought about by Microsoft's competitors who, rather than focusing their resources on creating better products, and improving their existing products, have chosen to portray their failures as the result of Microsoft's successes. This is complete nonsense. Microsoft's success has led to greater markets for even these competitors; markets the competitors were unable to create on their own, and a flourishing high tech industry.

To punish Microsoft is to punish success, and to reward failure. This is a political position that has led to corruption and destruction throughout history in every region and among every people where it has been implemented. Again, Microsoft has never used force in any way to influence the marketing or sale of products. But the U.S. Government is now in the dangerous position of doing exactly that. Whose interests are to be protected by punishing Microsoft? Obviously not the interests of the consumers, who freely choose which products they purchase. No, it will be the interests of competitors who have failed to produce superior products.

The foremost function of the U.S. Government is to protect individual freedom and property. This function should not be abandoned. Microsoft's success is the result of individual choices by individual consumers. This success should be congratulated, not punished.

Richard Warfield
50 Grace St
Jersey City, NJ 07307

